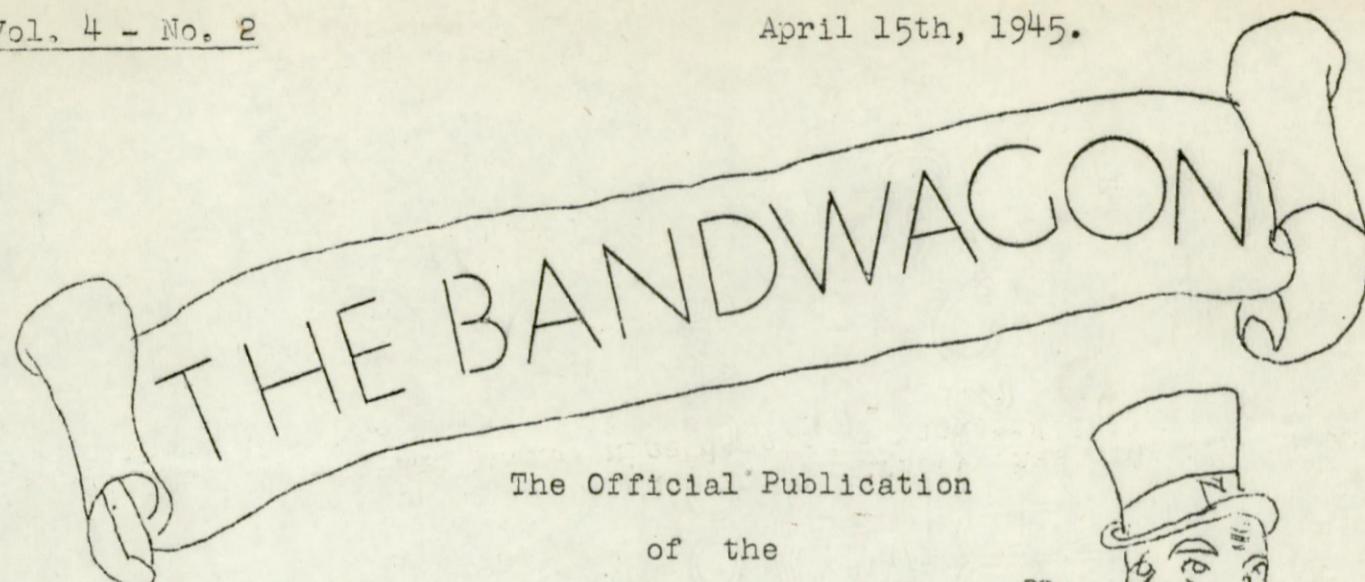


Vol. 4 - No. 2

April 15th, 1945.



The Official Publication  
of the

CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHRISTY HIPPODROME SHOWS  
Season 1919

By Bette Leonard - CHS.

The Christy Bros. Circus - travelling under the above title wintered in Galveston, Tex., and opened as a two-car circus. Opening was made at Rosenberg, Tex., on March 1st and the closing date was Freeport, Texas December 29th, 1919. This constituted the longest circus season I ever had.

Everett James was the Band Leader and his son Harry, was then three years old. Mrs. James did iron jaw, a sailor perch act and a black face act in the concert. Fay James did a ring act, Contortionist, swinging ladder and single trapeze.

Jake Friedman had the side show and featured Mlle. Carmen Du Coin along with F. M. Farrell, who is now CHS member 82. The side show carried the usual attractions.

On the opening stand at Rosenberg we day and dated the Dixie Minstrels. Owing to the extreme heat we gave very few matinee performances through the southern part of Texas. At Brownsville Tex., the entire show spent Sunday across the border in Old Mexico.

Admission to the big show was 75¢ and Geo. W. Christy, has made the assertion many times that he had twenty nine days of a thousand dollars each, which in those days was an exceptionally good day.

I rode my white Arabian Horse up town with the band and sang two numbers in Concert. This ride up town, replaced the usual parade on this show. Louie Mittendorf was the solo baritone and "Night in June" was always featured.

At Lordsburg, N. Mexico, Mr. and Mrs. Hinkley joined the show. Lee as cornet in the band and his wife on banners. On May 26th Fay James and Albert Johnson were married.

On June 2nd we crossed the international border into the Dominion of Canada at Cardston, Alberta. On June 21st Jerry Martin joined. At Wilkie, Alberta we visited with Campbell Bros., Circus.

To show the unusual incidents that presented themselves on the tour, might



Christy Hippodrome Shows (1919)  
Continued

add that we arrived at Hudson Bay Junction at 10.30 at night, on June 27th. The railroad yards were black with local folks who had kept track of our progress, through the local freight agent, who was an ardent circus fan. With the help of the spectators and customers the tents were erected and a snow was started at one minute to midnight. Just as the last act finished, a terrific storm hit and the top so hastily erected, immediately blew down. However, no one was hurt and we continued to Le Pas, Man. At that time, the last named station was the end of the railroad. From there on, dog teams were the method of travel.

We Sundayed at this town and Mr. & Mrs. Christy chartered a boat and took all the members for a trip up the Saskatchewan River. July 19th was "Peace Day" at Morden, Manitoba and was the banner day of the season. On July 23rd we left Canada at Bossavain, Man., entering the U.S.A. at St. Johns, N. Dakota.

On August 17th, we started over the Moffett Road, out of Denver, Col., for a week's stand. At Lindsley, Okla. on September 14th we met the Gentry Show.

Thanksgiving Day was spent at Anderson Tex., Christmas Day was celebrated at Brazoria, Tex. Gifts were exchanged. "Dad" Nelson - clown was Santa Claus and a turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served. This was a circus that had chicken every Sunday in the Diner, where all meals were served.

The circus had a ten piece band. We owned the only horse on the show, but there were eight head of ponies. Performers were the Rodges Family; Joe Doebeck; Mae's Dogs and Cats; Bobby Zenero; Powers Posing Horse and dogs and Art Whitler. Bobby Zenero did a <sup>100</sup>ft slide from the peak of the tent to the ground for the Grand Free Outside Exhibition, until the wire broke and he fell and broke his leg at Del Rio, Texas.

I am sorry that I cannot tell you the size of the tops or more about the animal acts but I was not so interested in them at that time and I do not have anything written down on it and I would not want to quote from memory as I might get it wrong.

Editor's Note: We wish to thank Mrs. Leonard for the write up on the Christy Show as above, and having been on the show - we know that the facts as given are right and will fit nicely into our historical files. It seems a coincidence also that F.M. Farrell, who is mentioned in the article is also a member of CHS and it is through him that the enclosed photo of the Christy Band for 1919 season is sent to all members. Mr. Farrell never fails to come to our aid when a good negative is required. Christy photos are scarce as we all know and so his co-operation at this time is doubly appreciated. We hope to hear more from Mrs. Leonard about other shows on which she travelled.

NOTICE RE CHS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Once again - we are sorry to have to call the attention of some members to the fact that they are behind in payment of their dues.

This is not at all fair to those who do keep paid up - and lend us financial support in this way for the publication of the Bandwagon and other items.

This is also the time of year when we draw to the attention of all those whose cards show expiry date as May 1st, 1945 - that remittance for dues should be made to Walter J. Pietschmann - Treasurer CHS, 7337 Third St., Detroit 2, Mich.

SANGERS GREATER EUROPEAN SHOWS  
Season 1913  
By F. M. Farrell - CHS.

It was in 1911, that Mugivan and Bowers, owners of the Howes Great London Circus, bought the Dode Fisk Circus and changed the name to Sangers Greater European Shows. It was early in the Spring of 1913 when I was showing Hancock, Maryland with the Wyoming Bill Historical Wild West Show that the Sangers show was billed to follow us in, several days later. It was there that I picked up a herald of the Sanger show and I still have it in my circus collection.

This herald reads in part as follows:-

"Resplendent with gold and glitter, triumphant, picturesque, The World's Show Beautiful will soon be here, in all its glory". A few features mentioned on the herald are Sangers Great Herd of Gigantic Performing elephants. Famous on two continents, trained beyond compare. Real aristocrats of the elephant world! The Great Orton Family of bareback riders - Supreme. The beautiful Miaco Sisters, Queens of the Air! The Strange Aztec Marimba Band from the wilds of Central America. The Wonderful Bells in thrilling flights through space. Gardella Sisters the human butterflies. Dashing Male and beautiful bareback female riders, four horse, carrying, meange and high school horses. Somersault riders!

Do you want to laugh? Here is a bunch of the funniest fools that ever frolicked for fun! Billy Lightfoot the irresistible clown and twenty others. Joe Pentland and Rube and Rastus with their comedy mules. Hi Hoose, the original farmer from Hoop-pole Township. Soo-sees clown Band. A troupe of trick house comedy acrobats.

Lest you forget - SANGERS GREATER EUROPEAN SHOWS will visit your city, soon at the peep o'dawn, the special trains of palatial railway cars will roll in town, bringing their endless paraphernalia, their acres of canvas, their hundreds of people, horses and strange wild animals from faraway lands.

From Maine to California it has been an ovational, inspiring, triumphal tour. Do appearances count? They do! Take note that everything around and about Sangers Greater Shows is finer, costlier, more artistic and attractive than you have ever seen before. From the arrival of the Finest Show Trains ever Constructed, down to the last detail of equipment, you will see this surpassing quality maintained.

Grand Free Street Parade daily. (This show exhibited in Hancock, Maryland on Thursday, May 15th, 1913).

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In the fall of 1913 I was showing in the South with Jones Bros. World Toured Shows (having joined that show in early Summer). And the Sanger show was also making town in North & South Carolina, where we were showing.

During the Summer of 1913 Mugivan & Bowers bought the Famous Robinson title from Danny Robinson who operated the Famous Robinson on 20 cars. The Sanger Greater European Shows showed a town on Saturday, and on Monday, the show was in another town as the FAMOUS ROBINSON SHOWS. I don't recall the name of that town, where the change was made, although I did know it at the time.

Might add that in 1916 Mugivan and Bowers bought the John Robinson Show title and the Famous Robinson Show became the John Robinson 10 Big Shows.

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Editor's Note:- I wonder if any of the members in the South can get for us the names of the towns where the above-mentioned change-over was made. We would like to hear of it and am sure that Farrell would recall the name if he again heard it.

A CHECK LIST OF "CAMEL" ADS FOR COLLECTORS

Many of our members will well remember those fine colored ads inserted by the Reynolds Tobacco Co., in recent years to advertise Camel Cigarettes. Through the courtesy of this manufacturer, we are now able to pass along to our members information as to the general make-up of these ads, and also the publications in which they were inserted. You can make notes of these dates and watch for them in the old magazine shops.

Season 1935 - Page ad featuring Antoinette Concello, in blue tights and executing her famous somersaults - appeared in circus programs of Ringling-Barnum; Hagenbeck-Wallace and Al. G. Barnes circuses.

Season 1936 - Page ad featuring Dorothy Herbert in her famous Flame Leap on horseback - appeared in Al. G. Barnes and Ringling-Barnum programs.

Full page ad with Dorothy Herbert shown with three horses also appeared - showing Chef "Behind the scenes in Brown Derby". This ad appeared in Sat. Evening Post June 6th; Collier's June 6th and "Today" same date.

Another page ad showing the Zacchini Bros., - Human Comets appeared in Saturday Evening Post Sept. 12th; Colliers and also Army & Navy Journal for same dates.

Season 1938 - Regular circus performance featuring Antoinette Concello; Zacchini Bros. and Dorothy Herbert appeared in the ad in Circus programs for 1938.

A large ad showing strip of pictures of Mel Kootz Hollywood Animal Trainer, appeared in Sat. Evening Post April 9th; Life April 11th; Collier's April 9th and the Army & Navy Journal for April 2nd.

Again - a fine large ad featured Antoinette Concello and Terrell Jacobs - one of the best ads - appeared in Sat. Evening Post Sept. 10th; Collier's same date and in Life Magazine September 12th.

Season 1939 - A colorful group of circus performers appeared in Camel ad which covered a number of periodicals e.g. Liberty July 15th, Time July 3rd; Els Mag. July; American Magazine, August; Our Army - August; Our Navy - July 1st; American Legion Monthly, August; Field & Stream - August; Outdoor Life; Opinion; Leatherneck and U.S. Coast Guard all August.

Season 1942 - Another nice colorful ad of Antoinette Concello - "Marvel of the Mid-air" Appeared in Circus programs.

Large ad featuring same performer as "Queen of the Air" appeared in the following: Collier's September 5th; Life August 10th and Sat. Evening Post August 15th.

From the above listing members should be able to locate sufficient of those colorful ads for their collections to make a nice showing. Of course, - don't cut them out of your Circus Programs. But watch for the other publications. A set of these in time to come will show circus performers, and also go to show how interested advertisers were to follow the "reader-interest" in the circus. We appreciate the co-operation of the Reynolds Tobacco Co. - which has made this list possible.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

WITH THE NOTE SHEET FOR MAY - definite announcement will be made regarding the Membership Certificates for CHS which are now on the Press. Full details then!

CIRCUS OBITURARY BY VAN MATRE, CHS.

S.H. BARRETT died at Boston May 16, 1900 at the age of 55 of typhoid-pneumonia. Was General agent of FOREPAUGH-SELLS SHOWS. Brother-in-law of Peter Sells and first conductor of street car in Cleveland.

PETER SELLS died at Columbus Ohio, Oct. 5, 1904 of apoplexy. Had three other brothers Lewis, Allen and Ephraim.

JAMES BAILEY died at Mt. Vernon N.Y., April 11th, 1906 of erysipelas, which developed from a cold which he contracted while supervising rehearsals of BARNUM & BAILEYS CIRCUS in Madison Square Garden.

WM. GARDNER died in N.Y. city, April 19, 1906 of acute pneumonia which he contracted while attending the funeral of James A. Bailey his former chief and life long friend. Was part owner and general agent of CARL HAGENBECK CIRCUS.

CHAS. DAVENPORT died in Cincinnati Sept. 11, 1906. Was a famous circus tumbler.

BOB VANDERVOORT died in train wreck at Rome, N.Y. Nov. 4, 1906, was better known as DIAVOLO and was the famous loop-the-loop artist.

WM. DUTTON died in Cincinnati, Dec. 24, 1907. Was a well known old time circus rider.

AUGUST RINGLING died in New Orleans, Dec. 18, 1907. This was the first of the Ringlings to go and his body was shipped to Baraboo, Wis.

BURR ROBBINS died in Chicago, Jan. 30, 1908. Was a well known circus man and left \$2,000,000.

JAMES ROBINSON died in Cincinnati, Feb. 2, 1908 of cholera morbus and had been retired from circus life for 20 years.

WM SELLS died in N.Y. City, Feb. 17, 1908 at the age of 45 of acute gastritis. Was known as THE CHESTERFIELD OF THE CIRCUS ARENA. Had the distinction of being the first man to mount a running horse by leaping from ground to animals back.

HUGH COYLE died in Chicago, Sept. 12th, 1908 of cancer, at age of 65. Was first man to bear title of circus press agent.

P.A. OLDER died in Anoka Minn. Oct. 1, 1908 at age of 99. At time of his death he was the oldest living showman. He retired from show life in 1881.

JOSEPH LUCASA died in Kansas City Mo., Oct. 7, 1909. Was the last of the X family of Albinos which P.T. Barnum brought from Holland for his N.Y. Museum.

MARTIN DOWNS died in Toronto, Oct. 19, 1909 at the age of 44 from the kick of a horse. Was sole owner of COLE BROS. CIRCUS.

PETE the hippopotamus died at Ringling Bros. winter quarters at Baraboo Wis. in March 1910. At the time he was the largest in captivity.

HACKALIAH BAILEY died in Brewster, N.Y. Mar. 6, 1910 at the age of 88.

JOHN LOWLOW died in Cincinnati Oct. 18, 1910. Was a well known clown.

FRANK BLITZ died in New Orleans Nov. 22, 1910. For 27 years managed Millie Christine and then the Russian Prince famous midget for 3 years.

OTTO RINGLING died in N.Y. City, Mar. 31, 1911 at the age of 52 of uraemic poisoning.

COLORADO GRANT famous owner of dog & pony shows was murdered Aug. 14 1911, at Taylorsville, Kent.

J. P. FAGAN died in Madison Ind., April 28, 1912 at the age of 53 of pneumonia. Was railroad contracting agent for Carl Hagenbeck and Great Wallace Circus. At the time was the highest paid man in the line of work he followed.

PLUTANO died in Waltham, Mass. May 31, 1912 at the age of 92. Was the last of the famous pair of Wild Men of Borneo exhibited by P.T. Barnum. His brother WANO died in 1905.

I.Z. STREIBIG died in N.Y. City, July 28, 1912 at the age of 63 of acute indigestion. Was general agent for Jerry Mugivans Shows.

CHAS. MOROK died in Brooklyn Aug. 22, 1912 at the age of 35. Was the originator of the LOOP-theLOOP for bicycles and autos.

MILLIE CHRISTINE twins age 60 died Oct. 9, 1912 in Columbus County N.Car. Were colored and had two heads and two of lower extremities but same body. Died within a few minutes of each other.

FRANK BOSTOCK died in London, Oct. 8, 1912 at the age of 50 of influenza. Was first trainer to perform feat of thrusting his head into lions mouth.

CIRCUS OBITUARY . continued

LOUIS JORDAN died at Union Hill, N.J., Dec. 22, 1913. Was the organizer of the famous FLYING JORDANS.

CARL HAGENBECK died in Hamburg Germany, April 14, 1913, at the age of 69.

D. W. PERRINE died in Eaton Rapids, Mich. Oct. 23, 1913 of typhoid fever. Was manager of BRONCO JOES WILD WEST SHOW.

ACHILLE PHILION died in Detroit, Mich. Jan. 17, 1914 as a result of injuries received in a fall the previous summer. Was a famous equilibrist and featured the spiral tower.

SAM EDWARDS died in San Diego, Cal. Aug. 7, 1914. Was known one time as champion bareback rider of the world.

W.W. COLE died in N.Y. City, March 10, 1915 of pneumonia. Left an estate of \$5,000,000.

IRENE WOODWARD died in Phila. Dec. 7, 1915, at the age of 53. Was better known as LA BELLE IRENE and was the original TATTOOED LADY.

OLIVER SCOTT died in Cincinnati, Dec. 23, 1916. Was general agent for JOHN ROBINSONS LOBIG SHOWS.

AL RINGLING died in Baraboo, Wis. Jan. 1, 1916 at the age of 64 of kidney trouble.

HARVEY HALE died in St. Louis, June 13, 1916.

RICHARD HAMILTON died in Baltimore, Md. Aug. 16, 1916. Was the originator of the modern circus poster and press representative of BARNUM & BAILEY for 25 years. Was known to his friends as TODY and died at the age of 70.

C.H. TINNEY died in Muskogee, Okl. Dec. 28, 1916. Was bandmaster for JOHN ROBINSON 10 BIG SHOWS and also HOWES GREAT LONDON SHOWS.

WM. CODY died in Denver, Col. Jan. 10, 1917 at the age of 71. Body was placed in a crypt and remained there till the following Decoration Day when it was placed in a grave on top of Mt. Lookout about 20 miles from Denver. Was best known as BUFFALO BILL.

JAMES ROBINSON died at French Lick Ind. Feb. 21, 1917. at the age of 82. Was one of the best bareback riders of his time.

JACK BONAVITA died in Los Angeles Mar. 19, 1917. Was a very well known animal trainer and died from injuries received from a struggle with a polar bear.

CHAS. HAGAMAN died at Mansfield, Ohio Mar. 25, 1917. Was a very well known circus legal adjuster.

JOHN BURKE died in Washington, D.C., April 12, 1917 at the age of 73 pneumonia. Was a life long pal of Buffalo Bill and a very famous circus story writer.

CHAS. SEELEY died in Elmira, N.Y. April 28, 1917, at the age of 71 of cancer. Was a very prominent circus man.

GEORGE SUN died at Hot Springs, Ark. June 15, 1917 at the age of 55. Had three brothers JOHN, PETE, GUS.

FRANK TAYLOR died at Creston Ia., July 28, 1917. Was one of the better known old time wagon showmen.

C. H. THOMPSON died at Sarasota, Fla. Jan. 4, 1918 at the age of 62. Was for years a circus executive.

MIKE COYLE died in Weedsport, N.Y. July 26, 1918 at the age of 80. Was on the executive staffs of both BARNUM & BAILEY and Buffalo Bill.

AUGUSTUS JONES died at Warren, Pa. Aug. 25, 1918 at the age of 50 from injuries received when kicked by a horse. Was a widely known circus owner.

HENRY RINGLING died at Baraboo, Wis. Oct. 11, 1918 at the age of 49 of heart disease.

ADAM FOREPAUGH Jr. died at Phila. Pa., Mar. 29, 1919 at the age of 60 of paralysis. Was the last of the famous Forepaugh circus family.

ALF RINGLING died at Oak Ridge, N.J. Oct. 21, 1919 of heart disease.

STEVE MIACO died on Wards Island, N.Y. in hospital, Nov. 14, 1919. Was at one time one of the best clowns in the game.

FROST LEMON died at Kansas City, Mo. Feb. 28, 1920 at the age of 65. Was one of the Lemon Bros. of circus fame.

L.H. HECKMAN died at Cornwall Canada, May 28, 1920 at the age of 48. Was well known agent of various circuses.

## 1945 Program - MEDRANO "le Cirque de Paris"

1. Orchestra - "The Music Goes Round and Round".
2. Li Chung Zsai - Chinese Act.
3. Yetta France - Butterfly on a Ladder.
4. Raydler - Bouncing Juggler.
5. Albert Carre' - Liberty Horses.
6. Nino & Mimile - the Crazy Statue.
7. Les Bel Air. Hand balancing.  
entr'acte
8. Orchestra - Tannhauser.
9. Yvette Maugart - the Contortionist.
10. Les Reynirs - Rythmn in the air.
11. De Roze - Magician.
12. Albert Carre - The Cossacks.
13. Pipo & Rhum - Apprentice Jugglers.
14. Les Bassi - Working upside down.
15. Retreat.  
Recordier et Loriot  
Gags & Jokes.

## 1945 - Program - Cirque D'Hivre.

1. Orchestra	2. Orchestra	3. Orchestra
4.- Miss Olympic - Contortioniste.		
5.- Rossi, et son cheval Musicien.		
6.- Troupe Pauwel's.		
7.- Maiss & Beby.		
8.- Les Clerans.		
9.- Alex and Zavatta.		
Dans un reve de Blanche - Neige.		

The originals of the above two programs were sent to Don Smith, CHS by Chuck Sateja of the U.S. Army now in France. The original programs are about 4 x 5", with colored covers and 8 pages illustrated and sold at the show for 5 francs. Sateja reports the shows are very interesting, and more intimate than American Circuses, with the Horse Acts probably being the best. The performances were given in unheated buildings during Winter months, but will take to the road in Spring.

Notes on the Dailey and Austin Circuses.  
sent in by CHS Geo. Hubler.

CHS Geo. Hubler writes that he has visited the Dailey Bros., circus quarters at Gonzales, Texas twice, and that a wonderful circus is in course of preparation. Wagons are red and orange with silver lettering. George also visited Austin, Tex. quarters of Austin Bros., circus. Wagons here are of bright red bodies, with a 6" blue stripe around all outer edges, with words "Austin Bros" in yellow and "circus" in silver. He also made Chicago, Ill. on a flying trip, and visited with CHS John Haviland and CHS Vice-President Burt L. Wilson. Two weeks ago, Hubler also visited the ROD R-B quarters in Sarasota, and says he at least equalled CHS Bob Good's time from Sarasota to the circus quarters by bicycle --(see Bandwagon supplement, for May 1944, 2600 miles to see a Circus by Bob Good). Hubler had a nice visit with Ernestine Clark and her Mother, met CHS Dick Anderson who this year is with the Big Show. Everything looked wonderful; all baggage wagon and cages bristling in traditional Ringling Red! A few were still half undressed in their base coats of Bailey pink. The advertising cars were all ready to go as were most of the sleepers and stock cars. Only the flat cars will go out untouched as there isn't enough time nor men to repaint them, so they will still carry the 1944 yellow and blue. George also noted that he had a nice visit with CHS Bob Sams, in Birmingham, Alabama.

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 NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

The following corrections should be immediately marked on your membership list, which lists were sent out two weeks ago.

No. 82 should read 208½ Esty Street.  
 No. 96 address will be supplied to members as soon as Secretary is notified as to present address of this member.  
 No. 125 should read Robert A. Collins.  
 No. 174 should read Pinckneyville, Ill.  
 No. 187 should read 7904 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. (no. zone number)

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Changes of address - permanent:-

No. 57 Maurice Allaire, 8 Weymouth St., Portland 4, Me.,  
 new address - 24 Vermont Ave., Portland, Mo., (after May 1st.)

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Changes of address - temporary - good till further notice.

No. 35 Frank A. Norton - on and after April 26th address all mail care Bright Lights Exposition Shows, as per Billboard route or in care of The Billboard, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
 No. 65 Paul A. Ruddell, 4909 F. St., Capitol Heights, Maryland Temp. address; Pvt. Paul A. Ruddell, 991300 USMC, Hdq. Bn. Gas, Co., M.T.C., Camp Lejeune, N.C.  
 No. 109 Clarence E. Pfeffer, 1021 Ash St., Johnstown, Penna.  
 Temp. address: Sgt. Clarence E. Pfeffer, 33255603, 339th AAFBU, Sq. A., Thomasville A.A.F., Thomasville, Georgia.  
 No. 142 George E. Morrissey, 4707 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.  
 Temp. address: Pvt. Geo. Morrissey, 13140522, 3704 AAFBU, Sq. T.; Class 514, Keesler Field, Miss.

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New Member Bert Backstein is one of the organizers of the CMB&OA. Bert is Member No. 1 of this organization, and is Vice-Pres. for 1945.

Don Smith CHS on Sunday, March 25th visited Lewis Bros., and Fisher Circus quarters in Jackson, Mich., and also the Shrine Circus at Lansing, Mich. and visited with CHS Wm. Woodcock, in charge of the Cole Bros., elephants there.

In the Feb. 1945 Bandwagon - CHS Frank Norton asked for information on several shows, among them The Sipe Educated Animal and Lilliputian Shows. From CHS George W. G. Piercy comes the following information, taken from the "50 years ago" column of the Kokomo, Ind. Tribune for Dec. 2, 1944 - "George W. Sipe has announced that he will embark in the circus business in the Spring, proposing to put a fine animal show on the road. He has begun to acquire the animals and Prof. R. G. Blake, of Chicago has been engaged as trainer".

The Emmett Kelly Tent of Hagerstown, Md. CFS issue a paper "the Emmett Kelly Tent Topics" in which CHS P.P. Hemphill, as Tent Historian, has on occasion written very interesting articles of historical interest. Hemphill has a model circus, "The Great Eastern Circus & 101 Ranch Wild West Combined Shows" and is designing a pole-less big top for same.

CHS Phil Gardner is to be complimented on his little issues of the "Gardner Circus News and News views". In this he asked questions about present and past circuses, and am sure that if any member would write to Phil he would be glad to send along future issues.

In a letter just received from CHS Ray Choissier we learn that according to a letter he received from a friend - both opening stands for the Austin Bros. Circus and the Dailey Bros., Circus were rained out on account of heavy thunder storms.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG  
(Continued)

From CHS Ray Choisser, verteran calliope player comes the following true anecdotes--In the season of 1918 or '19, "Crazy Ray" played calliope on a circus under the management of Jerry Mugivan. Ahead of the calliope were elephants and camels, then the side show band on top of a wagon. The leader of the side show band complained that the band could not play, for the noise of the steam calliope, so in Cleveland, Ohio, one day, Mr. Mugivan, in checking on the parade, instructed Ray to stop playing for the next 8 blocks, and then he checked the band, ahead, as he suspected them of stalling. Not a note did they play for the whole 8 blocks, and Mugivan paid them all off on the return to the show grounds.

"Crazy Ray" also tells an interesting story of how the Lee Bros. Circus got its title. Ray writes that the Lee Bros. show in 1925 was a 15 car show with parade, and was owned by G.W. Christy of Beaumont, Texas, who also was owner of Christy Bros. Circus, a 25 car show. The Lee show was the old Golden Bros. circus re-christened. Christy bought the Golden show in 1924, and operated it for 8 weeks under the Golden title, then changed to Lee Bros. Christy wired the Donaldson Litho Co. of Cincinnati for a line of stock paper, and when asked by Arch Donaldson of this company, (also, according to Choisser, the owner of the Billboard) what title he wanted on the paper, Christy wired back and asked Donaldson the name of Donaldsons Porter, who had once shined Christy's shoes, and on receiving the answering wire to the effect that it was Homer Lee, Christy immediately wired the Litho Company to title the paper "Lee Bros. Circus" for luck, and writes Choisser,—"we got nothing but money in western U.S. and Canada that year. Louis Chase, formerly asst. manager of Sells-Floto and also Hagenbeck-Wallace shows when American Circus Corp. owned them, was manager of the Lee circus that year.

The following interesting notes from CHS Stanley Bird of England, dealing with that most versatile of clowns Pimpo 2nd will be of interest to all circus enthusiasts. Writes Bird ".....Lord George Sangers outfit is doing very nicely again. "Lord" John Sangers stock was completely sold up some years ago, and the present George, a nephew of the original "Lord George" went on the Halls with a pony, dog and pigeon act, titled "Playtime in Toyland". At the outbreak of the war, he went into partnership with Hillard the illusionist, and took out a small tent on a Scottish tour. This has been increasingly successful and enlarged from time to time. This coming season Hillard is on his own, leaving George as sole proprietor. With him is the Sanger favorite clown (Augusta) "Pimpo 11" His real name is Jimmy Freeman, and is a cousin of Poodles Hanneford. What Jimmy cannot do in the business is not worth mentioning. In one programme I have seen him work on the high wire, trapeze, trampoline, clowning generally, entrees, and carpet fashion, stilt walking, big boot (3 feet long), dance a la "Little Tich", present elephants, and a vaulting act, with his evergreen cry of "Let's have another one", meaning bring on another pony or man over which he would somersault. Apart from all these artistic accomplishments he is the complete tentmaster, and can splice a rope and mend rips and tears with the lowest employee.

"From these few details you can appreciate that it is high time someone started to write a book on Pimpo's life, which started some fifty odd (50 plus) years ago when he put in an appearance by way of birth in his mother's wagon at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, when the Sanger Show appeared there annually at Christmas time, long before Olympia, in the west end of London was even thought about. Olympia houses Bertram Mills Circus at the Christmas season nowadays, that is up to Christmas, 1938-39. The next season it was commandeered by the army, and a circus was taboo in any case because of the danger from the glass roof in the event of one of Jerry's "eggs" causing it to cave in"

July 24th, 1907 - Enroute from Muskegon to Big Rapids, Mich., the H-W Squadron was derailed near Twin Lakes, 6 cars ditched, 2 camels and 10 horses killed and 30 horses injured.

Season 1907 : Pawnee Bill Wild West Show had packed houses at advanced prices on its first tour through the Dakotas.

Notes from F.A. Norton - CHS.

THE AUCTION BLOCK

Send in your bids to the Secretary - John B. Lyon, 210 Waterloo Ave., Guelph, Ont., Canada. Do not send any cash with your bid - you will be advised if you are the lucky one later on. All bids must be in the Secretary's hands not later than May 7th.

Lot No. 1 - one new copy of the interesting Circus Book "Mollie Bailey" The Circus Queen of the Southwest. Donated by CHS James Goslin.

Lot No. 2 - Five photos 4 x 6" - of the Bob Fisher Troupe. Four excellent "action" shots on the high trapeze, and one nice group photo. Donated by CHS Ed. P. R. Holt.

Lot No. 3 - Another Special 8-page edition of the Hartford, Courant - dated Friday morning July 7th, 1944. Full newspaper is devoted entirely to stories and pictures of the Ringling fire Disaster. A real nice collector's item. Donated by CHS Arthur Gunther.

Lot No. 4 - Fifteen size 116 photos - various seasons and titles, including Hagenbeck-Wallace 1933; 1934; Cole 1936, 1942; Russell 1934; Billroy 1937; Stratton 1942; Tom Mix 1937; Dill 1932; Barnett 1935; 101 Ranch 1931; - a nice lot for the young collector. Donated by CHS William Koford.

Enclosure.

With this issue of the Bandwagon - to the first 150 members a Clyde Bros., Indoor Circus ticket (1944) sent to us through the courtesy of CHS Jimmie Armstrong. To the balance of the membership we are sending one of James N. Cole Circus complimentary circus tickets (1943) which were sent in to us by CHS Leonard Quist.

Charles Gelach - old time Circus Musician. From notes sent to us by CHS Joseph Tracey, after a personal visit with Mr. Gelach.

Charles Gelach, of Buffalo. He played cornet, and violin **in concert**, with the Adam Forepaugh Shows in 1889, '90 and '91. 1892 he was with the Barnum and Bailey Band, and with Sautelle, Welch Bros., Hargraves and other circuses in the nineties. Mr. Gerlach also was with Hi Henry's Minstrels a long time and from 1907 to 1910 was musical director of Sun Bros Circus. Season of 1911 was Bandmaster of the original John Robinson's Ten Big Shows. Combined, which was his last troup ing with the circus. Since 1918 he has been leader of the band and orchestra with John Stowe's "Uncle Tom" troupe. Chas. Gerlach was a splendor arranger and capable musician in every sense of the word and what he does not know about the old troup ing days is not worth knowing. While leader of the 12-piece band on the Sun Bros. Circus they played such numbers as Caliph of Bagdad and Albion overtures, Pinafore and many others, such as Lutspell and Light Cavalry. Played quadrilles for riding acts, tuneful intermezzos, polkas, Spanish dances.

A number of circus band leaders who were noted and successful in the old days that Charles remembers. Joe Gorton, Sr. with the L.B. Lent Circus; Geo. Sutton, O'Brien Circus Royal; Jim Robinson, P.T. Barnum; Menter, Forepaugh; J.G. Bates, Van Amburg; Harry Armstrong, Bachelor & Doris; H.H. Whittier, Welch Bros; Harry Crigler, Gentry Bros; Beech Parrett, Gentry Bros.; Woody Van, Andrew Downie; Park Prentiss, Sell-Floto; Tom Ogden, Sipe & Blake; Charles Gebest, Robinson; John Gill, Walter L. Main; Adam Gillispie, Al F. Wheeler; Theo Long, French's. They were all real musicians and always had good bands and knew how to put it over.

Charles Gelach, up to three years ago gave music lessons on cornet and violin but had to give that up because of his health. He is now 77 years.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS WITH PRIDE AND PLEASURE THAT WE NOW MAKE KNOWN THAT A LONG WANTED AND BADLY NEEDED PIECE OF CIRCUS EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE TO ALL MODEL BUILDERS. AT LAST IT IS POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO SECURE REAL HONEST TO GOODNESS  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch scale S-U-N-B-U-R-S-T W-H-E-E-L-S. THESE WHEELS ARE THE REAL MCCOY AND ARE NOT CAST NOR MOLDED. EACH AND EVERY HAS 16 SPOKES AND HOLES, THE HOLES ARE DRILLED AND SO IS THE HUB, THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU TO DO BUT PAINT AND ASSEMBLE. ALL ORDERS WILL BE FILLED IN THE ORDER THAT THEY COME IN, BUT NOBODY WILL HAVE TO WAIT MORE THAN A WEEK FOR THEIR ORDER TO BE FILLED. WHEELS ARE MADE OF WOOD (NOT PLASTIC) AND ARE PRECISION PERFECT. JUST THINK AT LAST REAL SUNBURST WHEELS FOR ALL OF YOUR MODELS AND NO DRILLING TO DO, IN FACT NOTHING TO DO BUT PAINT YOUR OWN PARTICULAR COLOR AND DESIGN AND BEST OF ALL AT A PRICE WITHIN THE REACH OF EVERYBODY.

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1. Campbell Bros. wagon show, 1897. Tents, ticket wagon, crowd, etc.
2. Campbell Bros. 1910. Unusual close-up of ten side show banners, etc.
3. Lee Greer wagon show, 1906. Performers, clown, band, elephants.
4. Orrin Hollis, wife, and "Pinkie" and their beautiful white horses.  
(Ask Walter Tyson what he thinks of these photos)

Barnum & Bailey, 1913. Postcard size, 25¢ each. All six for \$1.10. These include three fine parade views; group of seven clowns; Wonderful unloading scene of horses, stock cars, etc; and Circus Day crowd on Midway, etc., thrilling.

List of other photos sent when any of above are ordered. Due to photo rationing only ten sets available each month. All previous offers cancelled.

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TOM MIX 1936-38; etc., etc.

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A MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Any Hobby to live and grow must constantly find new converts to that Hobby. It must constantly interest new people, arouse a desire in those who knew nothing about it before to find out something about it and begin taking an active interest and part in that Hobby.

You CHS members who enjoy collecting things pertaining to the Circus, who find interest in building Circus models - and have no one else in your community with a similar interest - have you ever stopped to think how much more enjoyment you could get from your Hobby if there were some more people in your locality who were interested in your Hobby? You could form a local Circus Club to have meetings together, to have good old "circus" talks, to join together in collecting Circus items, in building Circus models and so on and on.

How can you interest others in your Hobby? Please read on.

You CHS members who have photos of Circus subjects or other items of Circusiana to sell - to whom are you going to sell your pictures a year from now, two years from now, ten years from now? What are you doing to give our Hobby publicity and to secure new members for our organization, CHS? What are you doing to make potential customers for your photographs and other items of Circusiana that you may be selling?

How can you interest others in our Hobby?

HERE'S HOW

Did you ever build a model of a Circus wagon? Did you ever experience the joy and satisfaction of forming, building, creating with your own hands a replica of some especially favored piece of Circus equipment? You know the thrill you received. It is the same with a newcomer to our Hobby. Let them build their first model wagon, then they will want to build another and another and so on. They will want pictures of wagons, so as to add more detail to their model wagons, from what they view in the pictures. They will want other information about tents, seats, side shows, menagerie equipment and so on and so on. This will lead to interesting and satisfying correspondence between new acquaintances in our Hobby.

You receive satisfaction and pleasure from anything you do to the same ratio of the amount of effort you put into it. My wife and I realized the truth of this statement some months ago and we decided to do something about it. At the expenditure of something over five hundred hours of our spare time in the past several months and at a cost of several hundred dollars for printing equipment, printing cuts, stocks of cardboard, paper, wooden strips, nails and other materials needed, we have prepared for the Circus Hobbyist and for all those who could be interested in our Hobby by a little effort on our part, several Circus Model Building Kits from which can be built some very realistic model circus wagons. True, we do make a few cents profit on these Kits when we sell them, but we feel sure that you will agree with us that we are entitled to this for all the work and effort that we have gone to in order to bring this about. WE WANT TO SHARE THIS PROFIT WITH YOU. We want you, every Circus Hobbyist, to join with us in this effort to interest others in our Hobby and we want you also to reap some financial return for any effort you may put into this project. Here is how this can be done.

Order some of these Circus Model Building Kits. If you can afford it, give them as gifts to your friends and neighbors and their children. Or sell them at 25¢ each and make a little profit on your efforts. As a member of CHS, these Kits will cost you \$2.00 per dozen, postage prepaid. You will make a profit of 8 1/3¢ on each Kit you sell for 25¢

Get a group of newcomers to our Hobby started in your community on building their first model Circus wagon by this means. You will find that they will come back to you for more and more Kits. It gets in the blood, you know, this modeling of Circus equipment.

RESULT - A new convert for our Hobby - a new member for our Organization - A profit to you on every Kit you sell - A potential customer for your pictures and other items of Circusiana.

HOW ABOUT IT? WANT TO TRY IT?

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